

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are now pending in the application. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found throughout the drawings and specification. As such, no new matter is added. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments, remarks contained herein and the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed herewith.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 5-6, 12 and 16-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Williams et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0055812). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to Claim 1, Williams does not show, teach or suggest generating a hint file that includes a hint including a suggestion from an engineering group for resolving at least one of a failure mode of the at least one component part and a repair related to the at least one component part. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found throughout the drawings and specification, and namely Paragraphs [0017]-[0018] and FIG. 2 of the Application. As such, no new matter is added.

The Examiner asserts that the "notes" and "information" of Williams are equivalent to hints. Notes/information are not hints. As best understood by Applicant, Williams is primarily concerned with authenticating vehicle parts and providing access to a database of standard repairs including notes and information that coincide with the parts. Merely providing access to a database of standard vehicle repairs, as in Williams, is common in the prior art. In other words, database access is not a hint. A

hint provides insight as to the solution to a problem. In Claim 1, a hint includes a suggestion from an engineering group for resolving at least one of a failure mode of the at least one component part and a repair related to the at least one component part, which clearly differs from database access, as in Williams.

Further, the hint file, as in Claim 1, is continuously updated to a parts ordering/catalog system by, for example, downloading the hint file to the parts ordering system and parts catalog system in association with a part identifier prior to a request to order the part. In contrast, notes/information, as in Williams, merely correspond to a "my notes column" in which a vehicle owner or technician may save notes on repairs/replacements made to a vehicle. The notes/information, therefore, are not continuously updated, as in the Claims. In other words, the manufacturers of parts in Williams do not have access to the notes and, thus, the notes cannot provide hints that are continuously updated. The notes/information of Williams are part of a maintenance logbook and are not part of a method for assisting in correct diagnoses of vehicle repair, as in Claim 1.

For anticipation to be present under 35 U.S.C §102(b), there must be no difference between the claimed invention and the reference disclosure as viewed by one skilled in the field of the invention. Scripps Clinic & Res. Found. V. Genentech, Inc., 18 USPQ.2d 1001 (Fed. Cir. 1991). All of the limitations of the claim must be inherent or expressly disclosed and must be arranged as in the claim. Constant v. Advanced Micro-Devices, Inc., 7 USPQ.2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Williams does not show, teach, or suggest a hint file for assisting in diagnosing a problem, as in Claim 1.

The hint file compiled is continuously updated (by the an engineering group) to a parts ordering/catalog system.

Therefore, Claim 1 is allowable for at least these reasons. Claims 7 and 12 are allowable for at least similar reasons as Claim 1. Claims 5-6, 10-11, and 16-17 ultimately depend from Claims 1, 7, and 12 and are allowable for at least similar reasons.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-4, 7, 10-11, 13-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0055812) in view of Squeglia et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0156692). Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Squeglia et al. and Williams et al. and further in view of Demetriades et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0010578). Claims 8 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams et al. and Squeglia et al. and further in view of Griffiths (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0116316). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

With respect to Claim 2, Williams and Squeglia do not teach, disclose, or suggest forwarding a hint file to an authorized product team of specialists for refinement. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found throughout the drawings and specification, and namely FIGs. 1-2 and the related Detailed Description of the Application. As such, no new matter is added.

As best understood by Applicant, the "recommendation authoring system" of Squeglia merely includes an expert repository and operational parameter database.

Paragraph [0061] of Squeglia. In other words, Squeglia includes stagnant software that helps diagnose a problem, not an authorized product team of specialists who approve new repair methods, as in Claim 2. The specialists of Claim 2 receive hint files and refine the hint files. Squeglia, at best, merely includes a repository of data, and, not only does not provide hints, as in the Claims, but does not refine the hints via an authorized product team of specialists.

It is a longstanding rule that to establish a prima facie case of obviousness of a claimed invention, all of the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 180 USPQ 143 (CCPA 1974), see MPEP §2143.03. Neither Williams nor Squeglia define hints, nor do they include a product team of specialists that refines hints, as in the Claims.

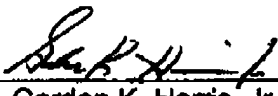
Therefore, Claim 2 is believed to be allowable for at least this additional reason.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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